San Gabriel River Ranger District natural stand and plantation Silviculture - Heaton Flats, Cottontail, and the Oak Treatment Project.

The San Gabriel River Ranger District, Angeles National Forest is undertaking an environmental analysis for the natural stands and plantation Silviculture /Heaton Flats, Cottontail and the Oaks Treatment Project. We are seeking public comment on the proposed action for this project. The project involves approximately 53 acres of National Forest land at three different locations in the Angeles National Forest; Cottontail, Heaton Flats, and the Oaks. A detailed description and maps of the project can be downloaded. Hard copies and/or CD are available upon request. Comments may be mailed or hand delivered to Esmeralda Bracamonte, Resource Officer, at 110 N. Wabash Avenue, Glendora, CA 91741. Oral comments may be provided during normal business hours via telephone by calling Project Planner Esmeralda Bracamonte at (626) 335-1251 ex 238 or electronic comments can be submitted by email at ebracamonte@fs.fed.us.

Project Description
Scoping Letter
Cottontail Map
Heaton Flats Map
Highway 39 East Fork

Cottontail Plantation
Project Description

Cottontail Plantation consists of approximately 15 acres of native oaks and mixed conifer located in San Gabriel Canyon.

Lack of management activity in this area has lead to the invasion of brush species into these tree stands and has created a situation where a future fire could again spread rapidly and at high intensity, damaging the residual stand. By reducing competition and increasing spacing between individual trees or stems per oak tree, soil moisture will be more available and a healthier growing condition for the remaining trees will be created. By pruning lower branches, removing competing brush from within the stands the potential of fire induced mortality is reduced.

The purpose of this project is to increase the resistance of the stands to the effects of fire, improve wildlife habitat, improve health and vigor of the natural stands and assure the long term retention of these features on the landscape of the forest. A portion of this area will also serve as a field gene bank to maintain genetic diversity in Coulter pines.

Proposed activities would consist of mortality removal, thinning, pruning, hand clearing (release), prescribed fire burning, planting and chipping. No new roads will be constructed as a result of this proposed action.

Specific actions include:

Mortality Removal: All dead and dying trees identified as hazardous to public safety or infrastructure will be removed within the boundary of the project. Other dead trees will be removed to meet standards in the *Tree Hazard Guide - R5 Forest Health Protection*. A minimum average of 3 snags per acre will be retained with large diameter snags favored for retention

Thinning: Thin oaks less than 18" in diameter to create approximately 10'x 10' spacing. Thin from below taking suppressed and intermediate trees only. Take 30% of the stems within an oak clump, leaving 70% crown closure. Leave all large oaks 18" or greater in diameter.

Planting: In plantations where mortality from insect, disease, drought or fire has created areas where reforestation is required to meet 20' x 20' spacing, planting of native stock seedlings will occur. Spacing for seedlings will be approximately 6' x 6'. Spacing for Coulter pine seedlings that are a part of the gene bank will be 12' x 12'.

Hand Clearing (Release): Where brush is greater than 20% of the surface vegetation, release trees to achieve a maximum of 20% surface cover. Cut all brush within 10' of the drip line on "leave" trees and cut all brush back from the edge of the stand 100' to create a partial barrier to fire spread. Material less than 3" will be chipped and the chipped material blown back onto the site. Material 3" or greater will be piled for burning when conditions are favorable based on parameters of a prescribed fire plan.

Pruning: All sapling and pole sized leave trees will be pruned to a height of 10' above the ground or ½ of the live tree height, whichever is less. All limbs will be flush cut to the bole of the tree. Material less than 3" will be chipped and the chipped material blown back onto the site. Material 3" or greater will be piled for burning when conditions are favorable based on parameters of a prescribed fire plan.

Prescribed Fire (Pile Burning): All piled material generated from the proposed action will be burned on site under conditions defined in a prescribed fire burn plan.

Heaton Flats Plantation
Project Description

Heaton Flats Plantation consists of approximately 6 acres of native oaks and mixed conifer located in San Gabriel Canyon.

Lack of management activity in this area has lead to the invasion of brush species into these tree stands and has created a situation where a future fire could again spread rapidly and at high intensity, damaging the residual stand. By reducing competition and increasing spacing between individual trees or stems per oak tree, soil moisture will be more available and a healthier growing condition for the remaining trees will be created. By pruning lower branches, removing competing brush from within the stands the potential of fire induced mortality is reduced.

The purpose of this project is to increase the resistance of the stands to the effects of fire, improve wildlife habitat, improve health and vigor of the natural stands and assure the long term retention of these features on the landscape of the forest.

Proposed activities would consist of mortality removal, thinning and pruning, hand clearing (release), prescribed fire burning, planting, chipping and installation of picnic tables. No new roads will be constructed as a result of this proposed action.

Specific actions include:

Mortality Removal: All dead and dying trees identified as hazardous to public safety or infrastructure will be removed within the boundary of the project. Other dead trees will be removed to meet standards in the *Tree Hazard Guide - R5 Forest Health Protection*. A minimum average of 3 snags per acre will be retained with large diameter snags favored for retention

Thinning: Thin oaks less than 18" in diameter to create approximately 10'x 10' spacing. Thin from below taking suppressed and intermediate trees only. Take 30% of the stems within an oak clump, leaving 70% crown closure. Leave all large oaks 18" or greater in diameter.

Planting: In plantations where mortality from insect, disease, drought or fire has created areas where reforestation is required to meet 20' x 20' spacing, planting of native stock seedlings will occur. Spacing for seedlings will be approximately 6' x 6'.

Hand Clearing (Release): Where brush is greater than 20% of the surface vegetation, release trees to achieve a maximum of 20% surface cover. Cut all brush within 10' of the drip line on "leave" trees and cut all brush back from the edge of the stand 100' to create a partial barrier to fire spread. Material less than 3" will be chipped and the chipped material blown back onto the site. Material 3" or greater will be piled for burning when conditions are favorable based on parameters of a prescribed fire plan.

Pruning: All sapling and pole sized leave trees will be pruned to a height of 10' above the ground or ½ of the live tree height, whichever is less. All limbs will be flush cut to the bole of the tree. Material less than 3" will be chipped and the chipped material blown back onto the site. Material 3" or greater will be piled for burning when conditions are favorable based on parameters of a prescribed fire plan.

Prescribed Fire (Pile Burning): All piled material generated from the proposed action will be burned on site under conditions defined in a prescribed fire burn plan.

Hwy 39 Oaks Plantation
Project Description

The Hwy 39 Oaks Plantation consists of approximately 32 acres of native oaks located on State Route 39 in San Gabriel Canyon.

Lack of management activity in this area has lead to the invasion of brush species into these tree stands and has created a situation where a future fire could again spread rapidly and at high intensity, damaging the residual stand. By reducing competition and increasing spacing between individual trees or stems per oak tree, soil moisture will be more available and a healthier growing condition for the remaining trees will be created. By pruning lower branches, removing competing brush from within the stands the potential of fire induced mortality is reduced.

The purpose of this project is to increase the resistance of the stands to the effects of fire, improve wildlife habitat, improve health and vigor of the natural stands and assure the long term retention of these features on the landscape of the forest.

Proposed activities consist of mortality removal, thinning, pruning, hand clearing (release), prescribed fire burning, planting and chipping. No new roads will be constructed as a result of this proposed action.

Specific actions include:

Mortality Removal: All dead and dying trees identified as hazardous to public safety or infrastructure will be removed within the boundary of the project. Other dead trees will be removed to meet standards in the *Tree Hazard Guide - R5 Forest Health Protection*. A minimum average of 3 snags per acre will be retained with large diameter snags favored for retention

Thinning: Thin oaks less than 18" in diameter to create approximately 10'x 10' spacing. Thin from below taking suppressed and intermediate trees only. Take 30% of the stems within an oak clump, leaving 70% crown closure. Leave all large oaks 18" or greater in diameter.

Planting: In plantations where mortality from insect, disease, drought or fire has created areas where reforestation is required to meet 20' x 20' spacing, planting of native stock seedlings will occur. Spacing for seedlings will be approximately 6' x 6'.

Hand Clearing (Release): Where brush is greater than 20% of the surface vegetation, release trees to achieve a maximum of 20% surface cover. Cut all brush within 10' of the drip line on "leave" trees and cut all brush back from the edge of the stand 100' to create a partial barrier to fire spread. Material less than 3" will be chipped and the chipped material blown back onto the site. Material 3" or greater will be piled for burning when conditions are favorable based on parameters of a prescribed fire plan.

Pruning: All sapling and pole sized leave trees will be pruned to a height of 10' above the ground or ½ of the live tree height, whichever is less. All limbs will be flush cut to the bole of the tree. Material less than 3" will be chipped and the chipped material blown back onto the site.

Material 3” or greater will be piled for burning when conditions are favorable based on parameters of a prescribed fire plan.

Prescribed Fire (Pile Burning): All piled material generated from the proposed action will be burned on site under conditions defined in a prescribed fire burn plan.